1994

Oral History Interview: Newman Maynard

Newman Maynard

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA
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ORAL HISTORY NUMBER: _____

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ORAL HISTORY

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#520

OWENS GLASS HISTORY PROJECT

AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH: NEWMAN MAYNARD

CONDUCTED BY: JENNIFER STOCK

DATE OF INTERVIEW: JUNE 7, 1994

Jennifer: My name is Jennifer Stock. It is June 7th, 1994 and I'm interviewing Newman Maynard at his home. Mr. Maynard, could you tell me your full name on tape.

Newman: Newman Maynard.

Jennifer: Okay, and you are married 58 years?

Newman: 58 years.

Jennifer: And when were you born?

Newman: Born 1915.

Jennifer: What kind of education did you pursue?

Newman: Very little. (laugh)

Jennifer: (laugh) Okay.

Newman: About the 8th grade probably.

Jennifer: Okay. And where did you grow up?

Newman: I growed up in West Virginia. A place called Kiahsville.

Jennifer: Kiahsville. Is that in Cabell County or,

Newman: Wayne County.

Jennifer: Wayne County, Wayne County. Alright.

Newman: It was on Beechy Branch. A little hollow.

Jennifer: Uhuh, did you have or have had any other family at Owens?

Newman: I had a brother.

Jennifer: Did you? All right, we'll get back to him. I just want to start out by asking you what you did primarily for...

Newman: I worked in the batch and furnace department. It was preparing mixture to make the glass.

Jennifer: The glass department. Could you tell me about that process. (laugh)

Newman: Well, it...what you make the glass from is practically sand...and limestone and minerals, and soda ash and all the stuff like that. Lots of other things went in. It was all mixed together and run through a furnace.

Jennifer: How did you know..how did you know what amounts to mix?

Newman: Well, it was all predetermined and figured out by weight.

Jennifer: By weight.

Newman: It was so much of this, so much of that. And a....and a...run through the furnace and melted. And then it was run out to the machines from the furnace and the machines made the bottles and the glass ware.

Jennifer: So all you had to do was to get all these materials together and get them hot enough?

Newman: About...2800 degrees.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Someone walks in.

Newman: There or less. Some...grades a little more and some a little less.

Jennifer: How long did you have to cook it? Did it go in the furnace and get to be 2800 instantly?

Newman: It went in the furnace and it was...it stayed in there until it melted, until it began to flow.

Jennifer: Flow, yes.

Newman: It began to flow and....it had feeders that come out of the furnace to each machine. And, had decollectors that would run it down into the molds.

Jennifer: Right.

Newman: The molds would a....everything worked automatic, by air and it would close up and a gob of glass would fall into the mold. (yeah) And the mold would close up on it, and the air would be blown into it and it would form the bottle.

Jennifer: I guess so, very quickly huh?

Newman: Just instantly, almost instantly.

Jennifer: Wow! How long do they have to cool off?

Newman: Well....they had to cool slowly.

Jennifer: They had to cool slowly, huh.

Newman: Cause they had a....big, what they call a layer and it was enclosed and it was probably maybe 50 feet long or something like that. And then it had heat in it that cooled down and as that bottle or the ware went through this layer on a....chain like conveyor...fine, fine mesh chain, you know (yeah) metal and it would cool down slowly until it got down to the other end.

Jennifer: I see, so it like,

Newman: And then there was (cough) inspectors that picked it up and inspected it and looked at it. Examined it for defects, and then it was packed.

Jennifer: Did you have a lot of defects? Was that process fully fool proof?

Newman: Well a.....not to many. There was good many defects like blisters or air..air bubbles. (yeah) But it was pretty well...it was pretty well accurate.

Jennifer: It works pretty well huh. All those machines. How many bottle machines did you have at that time?

Newman: Well at that time....they had 5 furnaces and...they had a....5 and 6 machines on each furnace.

Jennifer: On each furnace, okay.

Newman: About that. And then I don't know...I can't recall just how many...heads that they had to make the ware.

Jennifer: Uh, uh. So each mold that was each,

Newman: How many that had there but they had a good many.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Newman: And these...these little penicillin bottles, oh, they made them by the thousands.

Jennifer: (laugh) How small were they?

Newman: Just, I don't know, just down to the ounce.

Jennifer: Oh my goodness! So they had like a...like, was it like a big mold with like a little bit in the middle carved out or was it,

Newman: A small mold.

Jennifer: A tiny mold, yeah.

Newman: And a..they run through real fast.

Jennifer: Wow! Yeah. Wow! I wondered about that. How did you..how did you inspect those for defects?

Newman: Well all they could do is to look at them. They had to....by eye inspection.

Jennifer: Wow! (laugh) And they packed them individually?

Newman: Oh yes. They packed them in individual little containers in a box.....to a...to keep them from breaking you know. I mean they was..they was insulated from each other by a petition, you know.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. You made your own boxes up there for a while didn't you? They made their own boxes up there?

Newman: Yeah, they had a corrugating outfit and I guess they made their own boxes as long as they was in operation.

Jennifer: Yeah, I guess so. That makes sense. Was that a large department?

Newman: Oh yes. It was a....a big outfit right in the plant.

Jennifer: Uh, huh. Yeah. (pause) So when did you begin to work at the plant?

Newman: Well I began in (cough) 42 at first.

Jennifer: At first. Okay, what do you mean?

Newman: I worked a year. (uh, huh) And then I went through the war, I went to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Jennifer: Oh, during the war you went to the,

Newman: During the war.

Jennifer: And why was that? Why did you shift locations?

Newman: Well it was....I had a pretty tough job..at Owens then at that time. (uh, huh) And, my brother-in-law was working at Goodyear in Akron,

Jennifer: In Akron, (uh, huh)

Newman: And he came in told me what a good job he had so I went with them. I went back with him and went to work in the plant of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Jennifer: In Akron, Ohio?

Newman: A making a, yes. A making gasoline tanks for their airplanes. They were bullet sealed. (oh yeah) A bullet could shoot through them and it would seal right back up.

Jennifer: Self healing.

Newman: Yeah. And I..I worked there about...5 years.

Jennifer: All through the war, huh?

Newman: All through the war.

Jennifer: I see.

Newman: And then I came back to Owens.

Jennifer: Okay. What were the terms of your absence from Owens. Did you say I'm going somewhere else now or did you say I'll be back. Did you plan to come back to Owens?

Newman: No, I...I didn't plan it. But the way things worked out. I went into other jobs and....finally got a job back at Owens.

Jennifer: Was it difficult to get hired in there?

Newman: Not at that time.

Jennifer: Not at that time, if you had the experience.

Newman: Yes.

Jennifer: Did it depend on who you knew? Was it informal? Did it, was it...I mean could you get a job there just by walking up and going hey I can do this, this, and this but I don't know anybody in this town. You know, I have heard so many people say that they got a job there because of so and so and so and so. That is the reason for the excellence of the plant for so long because it did hire through family.

Newman: Yeah, well they...they done a good bit of that. Of

course, my brother worked there and he was the cause...he was the cause of me getting a job there at that time. And a.....so through him, he gave me the information when there when there are going to hire, (right) hire some more men because they was starting up another furnace. And they usually have to have more help. So I happened to be here at the right time, and...he says they are going to hire some men down at Owens and so I went down and applied and got the job.

Jennifer: And you stayed with it every since.

Newman: I worked, I worked there 25 years this time. (okay) And then they gave me, when I retired, that gave me that year back on my retirement.

Jennifer: How so? (laugh) Oh, on your retirement?

Newman: Yes, on my retirement. Instead of having 25 years, I had 26 years.

Jennifer: That's nice. How did you ever work that out?

Newman: Well, that was their policy.

Jennifer: Was it. Okay. So you retired early?

Newman: I retired at 62.

Jennifer: Health reasons or you was sick of working or a?

Newman: No, I just a..I was able to retire.

Jennifer: Enough said.

Newman: And a...so I took the advantage of it and got out early.

Jennifer: I don't blame you at all. I'd retire now if I could, (laugh) basically. On what position did your brother have? What did he do?

Newman: He was a...furnace..he was a furnace crew leader.....This furnace is a...that is in the...back in, you know where they, they....they prepare the heat [inaudible] and rebuild the furnaces and patch them up if something happens. A hole comes somewhere they patch the furnace. And a watch the heat and everything.

Jennifer: I understand those furnaces had to be kept going all the time.

Newman: Twenty-four hours a day.

Jennifer: Cause if they cooled down, what was the reason for that?

Newman: Well, it was a great expense for the company. I forget just the.....the dollar....but it runs into the thousands of dollars just to shut one furnace down and start it too.

Jennifer: Really, really? Cause of the gas that is required?

Newman: Yeah. And it takes a long time to heat it, get it back up to operation.

Jennifer: Oh, I see, I see. Wow! Did those furnaces go forever? What happened when they like, did they get shut down usually cause it was time to shut them down?

Newman: Yes. They would wear down. And a...then they would shut one furnace down. They'd inspect it and see that it needed to be shut down, and then they would rebuild it.

Jennifer: And this happened often? How often did that happen?

Newman: Oh, they'd last, they'd last several years, a furnace would.

Jennifer: Uh, so do you have any children?

Newman: Four.

Jennifer: Four children.

Newman: I had 3 girls and 1 boy.

Jennifer: Did any of them want to work at Owens?

Newman: No.

Jennifer: No.

Newman: Well, I had 1 daughter worked a short while.

Jennifer: Uh, huh.

Newman: She just worked a short while and...she a....she's working for the mail.

Jennifer: Post office?

Newman: She carries the mail.

Jennifer: Oh, that's a good job.

Newman: In a rural district...

Jennifer: A lot of people want to be mail carriers. That's a real

good job.

Newman: Yeah, it's a pretty good job. She's up here in the country. She carries, not around here, it's on out 775 where you turned off down there.

Jennifer: Oh yeah, yeah. That's got to be a kinda relaxing job you know.

Newman: Well, I guess any job would probably.....if you don't really like it why, but she likes that job.

Jennifer: Well, that's good.

Newman: It gets a little boring. Of course I had a hard job at first but I had to work.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. (laugh)

Newman: (laugh) Well, I had to make a living.

Jennifer: Yeah. So did you like it when you first came in? Did you grow to like your job? Did you...?

Newman: Yeah. It was a good company to work for.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Newman: Owens was a wonderful company.

Jennifer: Did you take part in the social activities that was sponsored?

Newman: No, no, I just....I had this farm (oh yeah) and I put all my time in here.

Jennifer: Oh, that's lovely. You mean you didn't go to the gun ranges and the buffalo roasts?

Newman: No. I would go to the, when they would have a dinner. They had a clubhouse and some of the guys maybe would retire, they'd throw them a party and, going away party. I'd usually go to them.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. Kinda of duty, an obligation there.

Newman: Yeah. Uh, huh.

Jennifer: Are you part of their retiree association? You know they got an association together, they meet out at the clubhouse these days.

Newman: I, I've never went over.

Jennifer: Yeah. I talked to a lot of people who are real involved in that. They take trips and they volunteer for different things. They keep busy, (laugh) keeping themselves busy. So during World War II you went to a whole different plant. (laugh) Were you around during the, were you ever a member of a union, any of the unions at the plant?

Newman: Yes.

Jennifer: Oh, you had to be. I mean,

Newman: Yes.

Jennifer: Were you active in the union?

Newman: No. I was just a member.

Jennifer: Oh, do you feel like the unions helped the workers at all? Do you feel like you had a good union for most of your career, or what was your feelings toward the union?

Newman: Well, they're alright. We need a good union to....to keep both sides straight you know. But a....some is...some guys are a

little....I don't know how to put it but a.....can't be satisfied. Laugh (laugh).

Jennifer: On both sides, huh?

Newman: On both sides, yeah, that's what I mean. We need a as union's something to hold both sides in line. Some kind of an agreement like that. It's like maybe a supervisor might get sort of angry at somebody you know, for no reason at all and they could just start making it hard on him. (yeah, right) And he needs to have protection like that too, you see. (sure) I mean a...through the unions...they could kinda be a guide for each other.

Jennifer: And watchdogs and all that. So you around during the 1969 strike?

Newman: 69?

Jennifer: Yeah. There was a big strike I've been told in 1969.

Newman: This is Owens?

Jennifer: Yeah. 68?

Newman: See a...I wasn't on a strike myself because they had an agreement you see. Somebody had to keep the furnaces a going.

(right) There was an agreement between union and management (yeah) that a....to keep the furnaces in good shape and in operation. (oh) You see you could just keep them up to the melting point and they had to somebody there to keep that a going. If a little stream of glass that went through the furnace and it would, would drain out so they had to people to take care of the drainage of glass from these furnaces. Yeah, they had to be a crew (yeah) to keep the furnaces and operate them.

Jennifer: And you were part of that crew?

Newman: Yes, I was part of the crew.

Jennifer: Oh, that's interesting. So you're in there with management, those.

Newman: Oh yes, yeah.

Jennifer: What was that like? Was there any tension? You know, was there any increase in tension between management and workers?

Newman: No, everything was always pretty quite. They just a....they wasn't no big ruckus or anything, everybody was.

Jennifer: Everybody had to do what they had to do.

Newman: They just done what they had to do. They didn't tear up anything or nothing like that.

Jennifer: Yeah. No, of course not. How did the management do taking care of all the a, I know they had to run a lot of things in the factory while they were in there that they weren't used to doing. Do you recall any of that?

Newman: No, they didn't do any of that. They just...they were just on their job. (uh,huh) They were just there.

Jennifer: So did you feel safe your whole time?

Newman: Oh yeah, yes. I was never afraid.

Jennifer: Yeah. How many people worked in your department? I mean, in the batch and furnace at any one time?

Newman: Well, lets see.....probably, maybe 25 people.

Jennifer: And did you have like a shift leader? Did you have a,

Newman: Well, there was a, a supervisor. He was other batch and furnace. And there was an assistant under him. And then they had crew leaders.

Jennifer: Okay. And, so the supervisor was over the crew leader, right?

Newman: Yeah.

Jennifer: What kind of, what kind of responsibilities did these people have, these crew leaders and the supervisors?

Newman: Well, they just a...they were lots of clean up jobs and things around. They was a, derailment here there's a lot of spillage around every now and then and they'd clean that up. See that the yards were clean and broken glass. They had to be a crew to take care of where the inspectors inspected the bottles and the ware that come from the furnaces. They had a chute that they, if it was discarded, they'd put down a chute and it would run down into a container, down in the basement below, see? (uh, huh) They had to be people to take care of that. (yeah) They had lots of...

Jennifer: Did they recycle the glass? Did they stick it back in the furnace or?

Newman: Yeah, glass never wears out, it's always glass. (laugh) And they would mix so much glass with so much raw material and run it back through. It was still good glass.

Jennifer: Yeah. It's a beautiful process.

Newman: Oh yeah.

Jennifer: Yeah, I think so. It's such a shame that there is so much plastic instead of glass. How did you hear about the plant closing?

Newman: I saw it...maybe I seen it on the news.

Jennifer: What was your reaction when you heard about it?

Newman: Oh, I was really sad.

Jennifer: (laugh) Why were you sad? Why were you sad?

Newman: Well, I worked there and so many people. I got a lot of friends. They worked a...some of them is about 50 years old (yeah) and they can't hardly get a job somewhere else. And they don't have enough time in to get their pension.

Jennifer: Right, right. Terrible situation.

Newman: That's a....that just messed those guys up proper. (yeah) You know, they just can't get a job. There's not enough jobs here

in this vicinity.

Jennifer: No, no there isn't. Yeah, that's a real bad situation. I've been told that Owens was somewhat flexible about that situation where if you had like 29 years you know, they'd go ahead and give you the pension. But, I'm sure they were a lot of people that were left stranded.

Newman: Well, I think this one, one guy, he used to be my neighbor, he liked, he liked a little under 2 years, I believe or a year and a half or something like that, I think. And he don't know what he is going to do now. (laugh)

Jennifer: So are they cut off completely, no pension or nothing?

Newman: Oh yeah.

Jennifer: So no money at all?

Newman; No, well now I think they us severance pay. I think they gave them severance pay.

Jennifer: That's not much,

Newman: I don't know how much it was or...

Jennifer: Or how long it last.

Newman: I never did hear anyone say what their severance pay was.

Jennifer: Yeah, I haven't heard that either. And then of course you go on unemployment for a while but then that runs out. Why do

you think the plant closed? Do you have any opinions as to why the plant, this incredibly hugely successful plant had to shut down?

Newman: Well, I, I.....I wouldn't know. There was lots of plants.....that a...they moved some of the plants I think to some other country, maybe Mexico. When the government started this NASA,

Jennifer: NAFTA.

Newman: And a I think some plants went to the other countries, maybe.

Jennifer: Oh, you think so. Yeah, that's, I heard that. A lot of people think that. Of course there's plastic.

Newman: Yeah, plastic. But I, I think Owens is in plastics too.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. I think so too.

Newman: I think they started plastics years ago.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. I heard that. So they had control over it. I mean, they had control, they had some control over the market in both [inaudible]

Newman: Yeah, I think so.

Jennifer: So you got along with management the whole time. You were there at a real good period for management styles like the, the plant managers and such. You were always, it was a real good working relationship?

Newman: Yeah, yes, yes. We had good relationship there.

Jennifer: So you didn't socialize at all? You didn't socialize at all hardly with other people from the plant or did, or what, I mean?

Newman: Well a, oh yeah. Some of the boys would come out and visit me here on the farm, (yeah) back and forth. And I would see them over in town when I go in town, they would be in a restaurant. But as far as going to the parties and things like that why, that never did enthuse me much.

Jennifer: Right. Why do you think that is? Are you just more of a quiet person or are you,

Newman: I'd guess you'd call it that. They like to do a lot of drinking. (laugh) I didn't drink.

Jennifer: That'll do it. That'll do it. (Phone rings) Let's see, you worked a rotating shift, is that correct?

Newman: Yes.

Jennifer: Did you, did that bother you at all?

Newman: Well, it was pretty hard to stay awake sometimes, (laugh) when I worked the 3rd shift. But it wasn't too bad. If you get your rest...get home and sometimes something would happen that you didn't get much sleep in the daytime you know, it would make it awful rough on you through the night.

Jennifer: Right, right, cause you had to switch off every single you know [inaudible]

Newman: You would work a week and swing. And a, so I,

Jennifer: Did it go 7 to 3, 3 to 11, 11 to 7 or did it go,?

Newman: Yeah, that's the way it was.....You'd work 5, 5 days, and

when I changed from a...day shift to evening shift....I'd be off one day and then part of the evening shift the next day. (uh, huh) And then when I would change from evening to midnight shift, we'd be off two days and then go back at 3:00 the next night, you know, not 3:00 but 11:00.

Jennifer: Wow. How did you manage to get your sleep with your family around you? Did that ever cause a problem?

Newman: No, it never caused to much of a problem.

Jennifer: Did they ever miss you?

Newman: Well a...yeah, they....kids was small at that time. They wasn't to small. They was up till you could tell them to be quiet (laugh) at that time and after I would get up why.....and then they'd finally, my youngest finally got in school and then they all were in school, and made it alright.

Jennifer: Quieted out around here. (laugh)

Newman: Yeah. Well there wasn't, these people down here didn't live there. It was just one house, it was the one down below there. This side was here was, this on the hill, they was no other families to close.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. So you seen all these people come up here in a recent period?

Newman: Yeah, since 50...I moved here in 54.

Jennifer: Okay. So you've seen it get a lot more crowded since 1954?

Newman: Yes, it is now. It's building up.

Jennifer: How does that make you feel?

Newman: Well, that's all right. They're good neighbors.

Jennifer: Are they? What are you growing out here?

Newman: Well, I used to have cattle.

Jennifer: Oh, really.

Newman: And I raised corn. I raised corn mostly and buy my hay. I raised strawberries. And up until, oh, not to long ago and I got to old. Laugh.

Jennifer: Yeah, laugh.

Newman: I got rid of my cattle.

Jennifer: Oh, yeah.

Newman: So I don't have anything but a dog now.

Jennifer: Laugh. I'm sure it's a fine farm dog. Laugh.

Newman: Yeah, she keeps the squirrels chased off. I got a feeder out there, I feed the birds. And the squirrels come in and eats the feed too and she watches for them.

Jennifer: Laugh. She's a funny looking dog now.

Newman: Yeah.

Jennifer: Can you, get back to the plant. Can you identify anything, anything that changed during your career at the plant, like say, I mean, what kind of changes did you see through your career is what I'm trying to ask.

Newman: Well, when I first went to work there in preparing the raw material...to make the glass, it was prepared in a very crude way. It was all manual labor.

Jennifer: I get an image of people doing this stuff.

Newman: Oh, yeah. Had to weigh up this stuff in scales and we had big scales there that had hoppers you know. We'd let the, we'd let so many times fall in these scales you see. And you got to weigh that up and that was pretty rough. And we had to unload it by, out of boxcars and tank cars. They had tank cars that they'll unload some of it. And they finally, it was, they changed it all to the automated. All you had to do was to open a...tank car and let it out and then went into a big bin, a storage bin, (uh, huh) all these different materials. And a we had a big mixer that went up and down tracks that helped to a, so many times of this material.

Jennifer: So it could come in and like things would come in from different, it would move?

Newman: Yeah, you'd open, these tank would run over top of it. This mixer, you had to operate on, it was on wheels and on a track. Just like a railroad track. And it had a big drum on it. You'd come back and weigh up lot of this stuff in the scales and we'd pull a lever down which was pretty hard to pull sometimes and it would empty into this big drum. (uh, huh) And you'd load up and put in all your materials and then close the door on that and then start it to mix it. It turned.

Jennifer: So you just pushed a button.

Newman: I just turned the lever.

Jennifer: I see.

Newman: It was putting me in the mind of a street car. I don't guess you ever seen a street car.

Jennifer: I'm familiar...

Newman: I mean it just had a lever there you just push it around. And that, that run the motor. (wow!) It'd let that current in, and turned that drum. And mix it, it would mix so long and...it had automatic kickoff on it and then it would kickoff. And you dumped it out in a bin that had auger down in there and it'd run that out on a belt.

Jennifer: What is an auger?

Newman: An auger is a big shaft with spirals welded around it, steel iron you know. And a, it was angled so as it turns it would push the material.

Jennifer: Oh, oh, okay. Like a, like a, no, I'm not going to get into 10 minutes of this but I think I,

Newman: It would push this out onto the belt. It would run down a little chute onto a belt. The belt run over and dumped into an elevator that had a, had an elevator that what it consisted of was a big rubber belt that run down, up to the top of the, up high and up in the air until it would dunk it out in chutes that was elevated that would run into, down into the furnace.

Jennifer: The furnace. Yeah.

Newman: Or into bins that held it over top of the furnace and then the operator that operated the furnace would open up, open up a chute. And then they had these little augers that augered it into the furnace. And everything was timed, it had a set speed. And it would put it in you know, just right.

Jennifer: The same every time.

Newman: To keep the flow a moving.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Newman: On to make the glass. Well, now that was a crude operation. Then they come in and automated it. Everything was done automatic. And then the only way I operated then was sitting in a chair. laugh.

Jennifer: Laugh, you got to sit in a chair for the last part of your...?

Newman: That was about a month before I retired. They got that completed.

Jennifer: Uh, huh. So you was like,

Newman: And I then retired. Well, after they automated it.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. Well, you should have stayed around a couple of years when it wasn't so hard. I mean was it equally as hard, just like different or was it a lot easier?

Newman: Oh, there was no manual labor at all. None at all.

Jennifer: None at all.

Newman: I, someone brought in one of these old time barber chairs you know, they would lay back. All I did was lay back there and watch for the red lights in there. If anything would go wrong, well that light would come on and it would, they'd be a little whistle or something that would attract your attention. They'd, and then you could look up there and see what, were it was at and call a electrician or a repairman and get it fixed.

Jennifer: It even told you when it was messed up.

Newman: Yeah. All the labor was taken out, the manual labor, you just sat there.

Jennifer: Did they have to get rid of a lot of people?

Newman: Well, I think when I first went there they was a working about 2200 people, somewhere around that I think. And a, the last account I had....was they had 700 people working. And running more ware than they have ever runned.

Jennifer: How did they train you on the new automation, did they,

Newman: Oh, I just had to learn, I had to learn what to do when a, to start things up. We had things, you had to start one thing first.

Jennifer: Period. That's it.

Newman: And then follow that, and follow that to the last material that you put in last. You start that all up and then it would put it on automatic and then it would operate. But it was, you had to start first things first or nothing else would run.

Jennifer: And why was that?

Newman: ?Well, it was to keep from messing up. If this machinery wasn't running, there is this belt, conveyor belt, wasn't running then you started going up why then it would pull it in and make a big mess. So everything was fixed. And they had relays in electric lines you know. They had to be on before the element would come on. Everything was for safety.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. Were you impressed with by these machines?

Newman: Oh yes, yes. I was impressed. It was just, all it was was motors. (uh, huh) Hook these motors up and relays and this one would start, the other one would start, and on in rotation.

Jennifer: It's amazing what we can do.

Newman: Watching those machines make those bottles. I worked there 26 years and they amazed me every day. I could stand for hours and watch it.

Jennifer: Really, yeah.

Newman: Everything was automatic and.....reaching and getting the bottle, pick it up, real, delicate, set it down nice on a metal belt. These belts was inclined you know, they was, they would go around a drum or, and it would pull the belt and once these bottles being made, taken out of the mold or the mold would open up and everything was timed, had to be timed just like clockwork.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. And it wasn't even anybody with eyes a doing it. laugh It was a,

Newman: No, it was building it itself.

End of Tape 1, Side A

Newman: About the molds, they had a mix with sulphur and stuff that would clean out any scales or,

Jennifer: Stuff left in there?

Newman: Yeah, to keep the, a good smooth finish in the molds so they wouldn't be no flaw in the bottle you see.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah. But that is all they had to do was just kinda clean it out.

Newman: Yeah. Ever now and then they'd be a, one of the heads mess up, the glass might, might miss a little bit you know, and hang up. They had ladies to control it right there, they could, the rest of them would run right on, they could just shut that one

down and fix it. The operation still continued.

Jennifer: Yeah, yeah.

Newman: With the rest of the molds.

Jennifer: Yeah, that's amazing. It is amazing. I've seen pictures of the machines. The Owens machine, the continuous flower or whatever or, it, you can't, you have to stop the whole machine or something. If one of the heads went wrong, you'd have to stop the whole thing. It's not like the, the but it is an awesome looking monster. Laugh. It's incredible piece of equipment.

Newman: Well, they had different machines down there when I first worked there. Some of these furnaces, it was all gravity flow. It just, there was some, they used to have some machines that they had to turn. The whole machine would turn around. (uh, huh) And a, but then a, they had a....these a....these machines was in line I mean, it really wasn't a machine, it was just a, it would operate the mold.

Jennifer: I see, yeah.

Newman: The glass would come out of the furnace, it was directly over, it was a gravity flow you see. (right) And they had things up there to clip the gob of glass. The glass was a flowing out all the time but they had these scissors like of a thing that would come around and clip it off in a gob. (uh, huh) And then they had the defectors, that was operated by air would come under this place, just as soon as it would clip one off well, it would move off and another one would come under. (yeah) And would guide that gob of glass into each mold. (right, right) The molds sat still. It would direct it down into each mold.

Jennifer: Just by gravity. Just by the falling of the, and shoving it,

Newman: Yeah, the gravity. Of course these other machines they had, they oscillated or turned and, but they come around, that mold would come around, come that machine to accept that gob of glass at the right time. And while it was a making another one would come around, the machine was a turning.

Jennifer: Yeah.

Newman: And then it would come around to a certain place, the mold would open and reach in there and pick it up and get it out.

Jennifer: Fascinating. And this whole machine was powered on what, on steam, on gas, on electricity?

Newman: No, it was on electricity.

Jennifer: Oh, electricity, huh.

Newman: It had motors. Everything was timed. Everything was timed, and it had to be the way it was set up and to accept that hot glass (yeah, yeah) come out and,

Jennifer: I would love to see the plant in operation. I wasn't able to, or not going to see it in operation, but a tour of the plant. I haven't been able to yet. I'd love to see all this. I drive by it all the time now. Laugh. I never knew what it was before. I never knew what the plant was.

Newman: You just can't hardly visualize how things worked in there, I mean making the bottles and glass ware.

Jennifer: [inaudible]

Newman: It's amazing how it operates.

Jennifer: Did you collect the glass? Did you bring home the glass,..?

Newman: I used to, they use to sell all kinds of glass ware. Of course, this over here, they just made bottles, they just made bottle containers.

Jennifer: Did they ever make glasses? Just regular like drinking glasses. I've seem some like..,

Newman: No over here. But they had other plants that made them and then you could get, buy anything that any product the company made and other factories. They had a place you could buy.

Jennifer: Oh, they had a shop on the site?

Newman: No, it was in the plant. You could get glasses,

Jennifer: And whatever.

Newman: Get real nice glasses too.

Jennifer: Yeah, I've seen a number of examples. Did you eat at the restaurant there? I was told that there was like a restaurant facility and that you could get like,

Newman: Oh yeah, yeah. They had a nice restaurant there.

Jennifer: Was it nice?

Newman: It was just like a....a restaurant outside.

Jennifer: And that was run by someone not associated with the

plant, is that right? The plant didn't run it, someone else came in and operated it?

Newman: No, the plant run it.

Jennifer: Did the plant run it too?

Newman: Yes, yeah, the plant run it. Yeah, they had a nice restaurant there.

Jennifer: Yeah, I heard about that. I keep finding out new things, obviously. With hiring practices probably changed, I don't know, changed noticeably to you in the, like the 1960s. I know women for example were concentrated in the selecting department.

Newman: Yeah.

Jennifer: What was it like when they started to move out of the selecting department? Do you recall what it was like. Was there you know,

Newman: Well there wasn't.....there was only one woman, lady that..transferred into our department, into batch and furnace. And that was before they automated the place, before the automated this went up into a room that was above all the furnaces. And there was a big belt, oh, it was about maybe....24 inches wide or something around the full length of the furnaces, where the furnaces sit they was in lined and this belt run up the back of them and had a traveling chute up there. It was on tracks and it was operated, electrically. And it would come down, they had to stops and you can mash a button and operate that thing up there, the batch mixer, you operated that. And it would carry, this belt had 2 drums on it, I mean this batch dump car. (okay, okay) That was intervened in trying, it would run over a drum like and back under another. So that made a [inaudible] and it, and that batch would run out and down in a chute (okay) over the furnace and the end of the, it starts in the furnace. And a, you could move that from one furnace to the other, there was big hoppers. (right) And then they had these feeders that they'd, glass into the furnace. That's where they had the augers, auger den. So that's the way it was, that was the crude way. Of course they still had the hoppers and then these augers to, they didn't do away with them cause that was, that was...that's the way they timed it. You make it speed them up or slow them down and to keep from putting in to much glass or raw material. And if they had a, had a, heavy, say like making a gallon jug, well, that took a lot of glass. (yeah) And it had to go in faster, you see. So they could spend up the feeders (I see) back there and they turn and feed the, feed the raw material in to hold the glass well.

Jennifer: I see. Right, right. So they had to be able to adjust

it is what you're saying,

Newman: Yeah, it was adjustable. Still it, was still that away when they quit. I mean to feed it in but it was dropped in automatically.

[Someone enters into the house.]

Jennifer: Is there anything else you would like to talk about?

Newman: What?

Jennifer: Is there anything else you would like to talk about today?

Newman: Well, that's about it I guess.

Jennifer: Just about it. Have I covered just about everything?

Newman: I think so. They had a, they had shipping and then they made their own cartons and everything.

Jennifer: They had a fleet of trucks there at one time too.

Newman: Yeah. So a, I guess that about...

Jennifer: That's the end process [inaudible] Well, thank you very much.